

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1-6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended) A surgical apparatus, comprising:
 - a tube defining a proximal region and a distal region;
 - a suction device associated with the distal region of the tube and defining a distal surface; and
 - a tissue stimulation element that is too small to form a transmural lesion in myocardial tissue on the suction device distal surface;wherein the suction device does not carry an apparatus that is capable of forming a transmural lesion in myocardial tissue.
8. (Original) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the tube comprises a flexible tube.
9. (Original) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the suction device comprises a flexible suction device.
10. (Original) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the suction device is substantially cup-shaped.
11. (Original) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the tissue stimulation element comprises a stimulation electrode.

12. (Withdrawn) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the tissue stimulation element comprises a stimulation electrode pair.

13-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A surgical system for use with tissue, comprising:
a source of stimulation energy;
a suction source; and
a surgical apparatus including
a tube, operably connected to suction source, defining a proximal region and a distal region,
a suction device associated with the distal region of the tube and defining a distal surface, and
a tissue stimulation element that is too small to form a transmural lesion in myocardial tissue, operably connected to the source of stimulation energy, on the suction device distal surface;
wherein the suction device does not carry an apparatus that is capable of forming a transmural lesion in myocardial tissue.

29. (Withdrawn) A surgical system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the tissue stimulation element comprises a stimulation electrode pair.

30. (Previously Presented) A surgical system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the distal region of the tube does not include an electrode that is large enough to form a transmural lesion in myocardial tissue.

31. (Previously Presented) A surgical system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the tissue stimulation element defines a perimeter of about 1.5 mm to 3 mm.

32. (Previously Presented) A surgical system as claimed in claim 31, wherein the tissue stimulation element defines a thickness of about 0.01 mm.

33. (Previously Presented) A surgical system as claimed in claim 31, wherein the tissue stimulation element defines a diameter of about 0.5 mm to 1.0 mm.

34. (Previously Presented) A surgical system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the source of stimulation energy is configured to supply stimulation pulses that are about 1 millisecond in duration and about 10 mA in amplitude.

35. (Previously Presented) A surgical system as claimed in claim 34, wherein the source of stimulation energy is configured to supply two stimulation pulses per second.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the tissue stimulation element defines a perimeter of about 1.5 mm to 3 mm.

38. (Previously Presented) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 37, wherein the tissue stimulation element defines a thickness of about 0.01 mm.

39. (Previously Presented) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 37, wherein the tissue stimulation element defines a diameter of about 0.5 mm to 1.0 mm.

40. (Previously Presented) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the suction device does not carry an electrode that is large enough to form a transmural lesion in myocardial tissue.

41-42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently Amended) A surgical apparatus, comprising:
a tube defining a proximal region and a distal region;
a suction device associated with the distal region of the tube and defining a distal surface; and

tissue stimulation means, carried by the suction device distal surface, for stimulating myocardial tissue without forming a transmural lesion in the myocardial tissue;

wherein the suction device does not carry an apparatus that is capable of forming a transmural lesion in myocardial tissue.

44. (Previously Presented) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein the tube comprises a flexible tube.

45. (Previously Presented) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein the suction device comprises a flexible suction device.

46. (Previously Presented) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein the suction device is substantially cup-shaped.

47. (Currently Amended) A surgical apparatus as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

~~a suction tube defining a proximal region, a distal region and a suction lumen;~~

~~a suction device, associated with the distal region of the tube, including a opening in fluid communication with the suction lumen;~~

~~a tissue stimulation element on the suction device; and~~

a signal line that is connected to the tissue stimulation element and extends through the ~~suction~~ tube.

48-53. (Canceled)